

Submission
No 255

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

Organisation:

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Date Received: 7/11/2005

Theme:

Summary

Dr. Nigel Curtis

MS.C (MED), FD.S.R.C.S.Ed

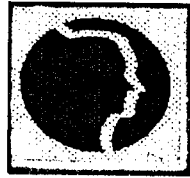
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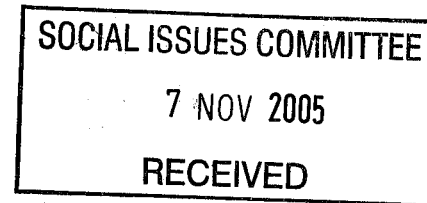
Bondi Junction NSW 2022

Level 4, Macquarie Chambers

183 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

22nd June 2005

The Inquiry into Dental Services
The Standing Committee on Social Issues
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Sir/Madam,

I write enclosing a brief inquiry in relation to the provision of public dental care within NSW.

As an Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon I am at present involved in elective treatment of a certain dental component in addition to the Maxillofacial trauma and other services provided to the Central Coast Area Health Service.

I have been a visiting specialist for some time in this area and also have been the head of the surgical division during this time. My present wait list for elective dental procedures such as removal of third molars I would estimate up to recently being three years long despite other government and public service claims. This has clearly been a woeful administration of dental neglect and even recent token moves by Mr Iemma, who I understand is known to be generally incompetent compared to the previous health minister Mr Knowles, appear to be irrelevant in the longer term. Iemma indeed did fund some recent enhancement lists for reducing the wait list period but this funding was limited to the period of June and I believe was a maximum of \$12 million dollars for the whole of NSW in all surgical specialities. You do not have to be rocket scientist, and clearly Mr Iemma is certainly not, to understand this funding was a token political stunt and have no semblance of long term planning involved around it. I expect the wait list that I now administer to once again be degenerate into long term waits and deprivation of public sector care within NSW.

I thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Curtis

Consultant Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon